

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image forming sheet comprising a substrate which comprises a laminate structure of a plurality of sheets;
a receptive layer provided on the substrate; and
an identification mark ~~being embedded in the substrate and~~ provided between said plurality of sheets so that the identification mark being unable to be visually perceived from the external appearance of the image forming sheet and said substrate being whitish thereby concealing the identification mark from human's eyes.
2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (previously presented) The image forming sheet according to claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength λ_1 absorbed by said material is infrared radiation and said electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength λ_2 emitted from said material is also infrared radiation.
5. (previously presented) The image forming sheet according to any one of claims 1 and 4, which is a thermal transfer image receiving sheet.

6. (previously presented) An identification method comprising the steps of: providing the image forming sheet according to any one of claims 1 and 4; and detecting the identification mark provided in the image forming sheet with a sensor to identify the presence or absence of the image forming sheet and/or the type of the image forming sheet.

7. (previously presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a sensor which, when the image forming sheet according to any one of claims 1 and 4 has been placed in said apparatus, detects the identification mark provided in the image forming sheet;

a discrimination means for performing discrimination for identifying the presence or absence of the image forming sheet and/or the type of the image forming sheet based on a signal detected by the sensor; and

a control unit for determining the operation of image formation based on the result of discrimination treatment.

8. (previously presented) An identification method comprising the steps of: providing the image forming sheet according to claim 5; and detecting the identification mark provided in the image forming sheet with a sensor to identify the presence or absence of the image forming sheet and/or the type of the image forming sheet.

9. (previously presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sensor which, when the image forming sheet according to claim 5 has been placed in said apparatus, detects the identification mark provided in the image forming sheet;

a discrimination means for performing discrimination for identifying the presence or absence of the image forming sheet and/or the type of the image forming sheet based on a signal detected by the sensor; and

a control unit for determining the operation of image formation based on the result of discrimination treatment.